

PREGNANCY & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FACTS

WHY IT MATTERS

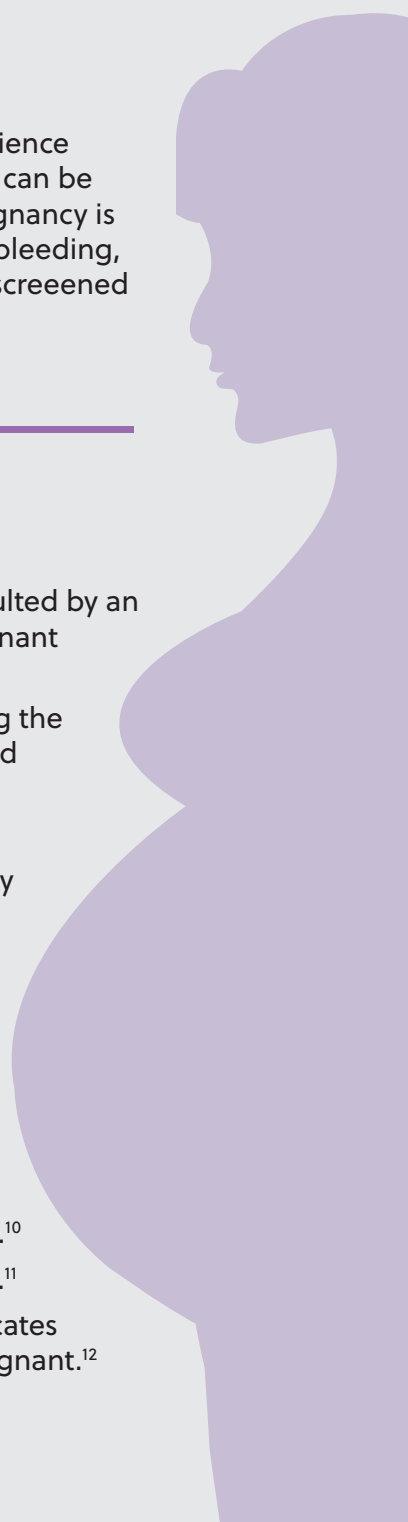
Violence occurs commonly in pregnancy—between 4 and 8 percent of women experience domestic violence during their pregnancy.¹ The effects of violence during pregnancy can be devastating to both the mother and the unborn child. Domestic violence during pregnancy is linked to depression, substance abuse, smoking, anemia, first and second trimester bleeding, and a reduction in birth weight.² Unfortunately, because domestic violence is rarely screened for during prenatal exams, this deadly health risk often goes undetected.

DID YOU KNOW

- Each year approximately 1.5 million women in the U.S. are raped or physically assaulted by an intimate partner.³ This number includes more than 324,000 women who were pregnant when the violence occurred.⁴
- Among the women whose pregnancies were intended, 5.3% reported abuse during the pregnancy, compared with 12.6% for women whose pregnancies were mistimed and 15.3% for women whose pregnancies were unwanted.⁵
- 50-70% of women abused before pregnancy are abused during pregnancy.
- 26% of pregnant teens reported being physically abused by their boyfriends. Nearly half of them said that the battering began or intensified after he learned of the pregnancy.⁷

HOMICIDE AND PREGNANCY

- Murder is the second most common cause of injury-related death for pregnant women (31%) after car accidents.⁸
- Between 1990 and 2004 more than 1,300 pregnant women were murdered.⁹ Most of these women (56%) were shot to death while the rest were stabbed or strangled.¹⁰
- 77% of pregnant homicide victims are killed during the first trimester of pregnancy.¹¹
- Many deaths associated with pregnancy may go undetected because death certificates and medical examiners' records do not always note whether the deceased was pregnant.¹²



WHO'S MOST AT RISK

- Women under age 20 and women who receive late or no prenatal care are most vulnerable to intimate partner homicide.³
- Women with unintended pregnancies are two to four times more likely to experience physical violence than women with planned pregnancies.¹⁴

THE IMPACT OF DV IN PREGNANCY

- Women who are abused during pregnancy are more likely to delay entry into prenatal care.¹⁵
- Pregnancy complications, including low weight gain, anemia, infections, and first and second trimester bleeding, are significantly higher for victims of domestic violence.¹⁶
- Pregnant women who are victims of intimate partner violence are more likely to suffer from depression and suicide, as well as engage in tobacco, alcohol and drug use during pregnancy.¹⁷

HEALTH CARE SCREENING

- 96% of women in the U.S. who have a live birth, receive prenatal care.¹⁸ On average, pregnant women are seen for an average of 12-13 visits.¹⁹ Despite this frequent interaction, less than half of reproductive health care providers regularly screen patients for intimate partner violence.²⁰
- Only 18% of pregnant women examined at an urgent care triage unit reported having been asked by their physician about intimate partner violence.²¹

IF YOU NEED HELP

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence and wants help, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.

Get the help you need to give your baby a healthy start, call Healthy Start at 210-207-4725.

We love you. We want you here.
sanantonio.gov/violenceprevention

LOVE IS...



SOURCES

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